

# RECAMIER MODES

For the  
SEASON'S

## LINGERIE



Combination Empire blouse cover and petticoat of India, linen and Russian hand lace

By MARY ANNABLE PANTON.

THE American girl loves to express a great truth in simple slang, and when she says "For me, the loveliest underwear in the world," she voices the real sentiment of her sex in the most fashionable and convincing of slang expressions. She likes elaborate clothes, and she is quite audacious in the selection of both.

### Month of Lingerie.

And just now she is thinking a good deal about lingerie, for this, the season of the "white sales" of ready-made garments, and of bargains in all kinds of fine cotton and linen, lace and embroidery for the home-making of underwear, now when there is a minute to spare for the consideration of nightgowns and chemises and petticoats.

It is at this season, rather than in the late spring and fall, that the new styles in underwear come out; that it is decided what will be the texture of laces, the colors of ribbons and the varieties of muslins, linens, silks, and cottons which will make the detail of the newest and most beautiful "under things."

### Yesterday and Today.

We take lingerie seriously these days; that is, with delightful seriousness. We are a century away from the betrothed girl who filled a cedar chest with dozens and dozens of shapeless garments of durable material warranted to last a reasonable lifetime. Underwear is no longer an heirloom and neither do we get it by the dozen any more.

Each piece or each set is separately designed, and however beautiful the design may be, may not outlive a season—for the fashions in white things change almost as often and whimsically as the fashions in hats and gowns.

### Things Out of Date.

Sacque-chemises, Mother Hubbard night dresses, basque corset covers and straight or knickerbocker drawers are as old-fashioned as crinoline or coal-scuttle bonnets. Since those days a hundred styles have come and gone. And this year the craze is for Empire modes, scant garments of clinging fabrics, with adorable short-waisted effects, no sleeves or else tiny puffs or elbow frills, circular drawers that are bits of gauze muslin, lace-trimmed and ribbon rosetted, and nightgowns that the stately ladies of the French Empire would have regarded as elaborate enough for royal ball dresses.

### New Empire Modes.

The finest laces from Europe and Asia are combined with the cobwebbiest fabrics from the most famous looms into models of the utmost artistic grace and practical comfort.

And here is one great charm in this new underwear—the expense is in the richness of materials. The actual making is simple and easy for the novice; and if we substitute lawn for linen, and longcloth for silk, and pretty imitation Val, and point d'esprit for lace from hand-looms, the most fashionable lingerie can be had for cents instead of countless dollars.

### Underwear Now Fitted.

It is an actual fact that fashionable women have their underwear fitted with the care they would give a tailor dress, and they modify modes to make them becoming and select ribbons the shade that best suits their complexions. Thin women adopt fluffy designs, and the stouter girl decides upon the scantier circular cut; in fact, to twist Montaigne, "dresses are no longer used to hide un-



The newest chemise of fine batiste, with cherry blossom Empire sash

derclothes," but lingerie is considered as an artistic separate detail of perfect dresses.

Here are some of the most noticeable features of the loveliest and smartest new underclothes, without specially considering the stout or the thin girl, but speaking generally:

An air of simplicity regardless of great expense.

The exquisite finish that would be given a costly garden party dress.

Embroideries so fine that they look like laces.

Hand embroidery, convent style, in place of insertions.

Low-necked effects in both winter and summer garments.

Short sleeves or elbow sleeves in night gowns.

No sleeves at all for corset-covers and chemise.

Carefully fitted under-arm seams, in chemises to avoid all bulk at the waist-line.

Circular-cut drawers to avoid all fullness over the hips.

No ruffles, puffs, or heavy embroidery. No starch.

The finest fabrics, batiste, mull, nainsook, lawn and Liberty silk, all gauzy enough to run through the ring of an "Arabian Nights" princess.

Fine tucking, hemstitching and convent embroidery in profusion.

Many rosettes and draw-strings of colored ribbon, both Liberty and "wash."

Scarlet ribbon rosettes, the newest fad for the daintiest lingerie.

Petticoats and stockings to match, and both in harmony with the costume.

To sum up, the prevailing characteristics of the new underwear are lightness of material, artistic design, richness of trimming, simplicity of effect and audacity and chicness in the ribbon finish.

### Nightgowns as Room Gowns.

Some of the handsomest new night dresses in Empire design are quite rich and elaborate enough to serve as very smart room gowns; in fact, when of silk they are often used in this way. A beauty for a spring bride is of white Liberty silk, short-waisted, with skirt-part shirred full onto the body.

The body is hidden under a series of circular bands, edged with narrow lace and hemstitched on. Very full leg o' mutton sleeves have cuffs of Liberty silk bands fagoted together. The skirt is elaborately trimmed with a lace frill, inset lace bands, rows of drawn work, and a huge lover's-knot in drawn silk work.

This robe de nuit will be worn very often as a lounging robe, over a petticoat of Liberty silk lace trimmed, of course, with a founce of insertions used diagonally and a ruffle of point

d'esprit, and fagoting, to be sure, and the fullness lost in tucks where the founce is set on the scalloped skirt-body.

A right and proper bridal lounging robe—but a nightdress? Shades of our Puritan grandmothers!

### Empire Effects.

An Empire effect is often gained in the new nightdresses by cutting the garment circular, fitting it under the dress and then taking a six-inch soft ribbon across just below the bust in front, crossing it at the back, bringing it forward and tying it in a wide flat bow over the bust. A very lovely model for a gown intended for the Empire sash is shown here of fine mull and real Val lace. From the shoulders to the bust the gown is bands of lace and mull, and the elbow bands caught together with mull. The neck is low and square and the skirt part is fitted and scantily

cathered to the upper section. Pale blue rosettes finish the neck, and the Empire effect would be brought out by a wide sash of silver-blue Liberty.

Among the simpler gowns, that may be worn with or without the Empire sash, is one of fine nainsook. There is a low-necked, round yoke, embroidered by hand in convent stitch, and finished with rows of Val lace. The yoke is scalloped where it joins the skirt, and hemstitched on. The body is tucked front and back for a moderately full effect, and all the hems and seams are hemstitched. The elbow sleeves are the new circular cut, lace-trimmed. The design is so exceedingly simple that it could be reproduced in lawn and imitation Val for less than a dollar, and the convent embroidery could be effectively simulated by a strip of all-over embroidery. Even an Empire sash of four-inch taffeta would not make it an expensive

garment, but ideally comfortable and charmingly artistic.

The Empire sash is as fashionable for chemises as for nightgowns, and is very much the fad of the girl with slender outline, for the bow in front can be as wide and as many looped and as bulky as desired; a pretty, healthful substitute for any sort of padding, which is less and less good form. In fact, in passing one might say that all sorts of shams in dressing are bad form. The wholesome, sensible modern woman prefers her own hair, her own complexion, her own teeth, and above all, her own outline of body.

An Empire Night-gown of trimmed with drawn-work, also to be

Bridal Liberty silk lace and elaborate used as a lounging robe

A simple artistic design that could be made up of lawn and Valenciennes lace for less than a dollar

## HIGH ART IN SHOES AND STOCKINGS

JUST as soon as we decide in Washington that at last fashion is sensible, and that this generation of women have found out the secret of dressing at once prettily and wisely, something is sure to happen.

We talked in this self-satisfied way a few years ago when we were wearing boys' shoes with low flat heels. We vaunted these heels, they stood as a logical answer whenever we were questioned as to frivolous ways. Today heels are nothing more than stilt—three inches high is moderate and they are worn to dance in, for Connecticut Avenue walks, and to totter about the house during a morning's work.

Then our sense of logic was transferred, and we set about to prove our wisdom by wearing all-black footwear, not a shade of color, not even a tinted clock. This fashion was smart, modest and economical, and our pretty skirts were cut a shade shorter to show the sweet reasonableness of our footwear. And what was a French heel or two in the face of such wisdom as we were showing? And then, as usual, our pride was laid low. While we were still mov-

ing through life with a haughty step conscious of our good sense and thrift made manifest in all-black footwear, we are brought to a halt by the information that this coming season stockings and shoes must match the costume, whether it be light or dark, bright or pale.

And again our common sense and logic are homeless.

For this is no mere random prophecy, or the fleeting whim of some fashionable girl. With Washington's Easter gowns, shoes and stockings will match the color scheme, shoes exactly, and stockings possibly a shade deeper to avoid a faded effect, which is so deadly to smartness in foot apparel.

With gray gowns you will see gray suede bow shoes and gun metal silk hosiery; with a dark brown dress, brown lisle thread with silk clocks; with a deep green costume, greenish bronze shoes and changeable green and brown stockings; with tan shoes of the new "pon-gee" kid will be seen, and stockings to match the petticoat, violet or brown, as ponce color in stockings always looks like faded brown.

Elaborate carriage or visiting toilets in

oyster shell, silver-blue, champagne and maize have shoes made to order of the dress material or of satin, and stockings the identical shade are of finest gauze silk, embroidered or painted.

Plainer afternoon gowns for street or matinee, yet in light shades, have untrimmed silk hosiery to match the color scheme, but often, where a carriage is not used, patent leather low shoes are worn.

Openwork stockings are quite out of fashion. Stockings may be thin, actually of gauze, or heavy like the new mixed Scotch hosiery, but the weave must be plain, not a thread missing.

For evening beautiful red lace medallions are inset on the instep, or the entire lower part of the foot is embroidered or painted, and the whimsical has the flag of her sweetheart's college floating over her instep, or the name of his college in the clock; but these are whims, not fashions.

### Finest Black Sables in England.

One of the most unique gifts ever received by a bride-to-be, says the London Express, are the sables which Baron de Forest has given Miss Ethel Gerard. They are of wonderful softness and are black as coal, without any suggestion of brown. They are said to be the finest in England.

Elaborate carriage or visiting toilets in

SHORT waists and clinging skirts, filmy fabrics, and delicate laces, rich materials and simple finish, all these mark the new modes in lingerie. Elaborate ribbon garniture and intricate embroideries done in convent cells go to adorn the American girl, whose nightgowns and chemises are as carefully planned as her ball frocks



perfect or not. She knows that the important things are good grooming and careful carriage. She hides defects by charm instead of by curbed hair.

But to return to the Empire chemise. It is cut low, without sleeves; over the shoulders and around the neck are rows of fine lace. The skirt-part is tucked just at the front, and a wide Empire sash of cherry blossom and white wash ribbon is worn. The skirt of the new chemise is scant and short, and for the stout woman left untrimmed. The slender woman finishes the hem with flat lace and a few fine hemstitched tucks.

Baby shoulder knots are a new feature of the low-neck chemises and corset covers, or coral beads are used, or a string of turquoise with a silver clasp, just as little girls wore them on short-sleeved frocks a quarter of a century ago.

### Combination Empire Garments.

Newest of all undergarments is the Empire combination corset blouse and skirt. A beautiful illustration of this new lingerie whim is shown of the finest India linen. The short-waisted blouse is cut square-neck and edged with an insertion of hand Russian net lace; medallions of this same lace are inset with fine embroidery stitch on blouse and sleeves. The plain elbow sleeves are hemstitched into the armhole and finished with Russian lace, bound with pale yellow wash ribbon.

A band of Russian lace gives a short-waist effect, and is run through with yellow wash ribbon. To this band the full skirt-part is joined with a line of hemstitching. As this design is intended only for slender girls, the petticoat is finished with lace insertion and bound with ribbon.

### Inexpensive Materials.

A very pretty quality of "lingerie lawn" can be had this season for 15 cents a yard, and many of the loveliest laces are closely and beautifully imitated at from 5 to 20 cents a yard, so that having fashionable, becoming, and artistic underwear is a mere matter of being willing to study the modes and give the time to a little fine sewing.

It does not pay to use silk in home-laundered underwear. Unless it can be sent to the cleaners regularly, silk is unsatisfactory in every-day lingerie.